

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 8. 1711.

I Have talk'd so long, and I hope so effectually, about the fatal Effects of giving the *Spanish* Monarchy to the Emperor, that I think no more need to be said to that Head; and I am glad that I can say I find so many Eyes open to the Reasons I have given, and Convinced of the Dangerous Consequences of it; that I have abundant Satisfaction in having Undertaken it, and abundant Peace in the Performance, tho' with so many hard and unjust Censures from Men, of whom, I think, their Prejudices, rather than their Reason, seems to Contradict me. I leave my Arguments, back'd with Truth, to work their own Way,

and when my Opposers think themselves Victor, and Triumph in it, let the Impartial Reader judge between them and me; these Men abandon Truth, and I turn from them; I have enter'd my poor Protest in behalf of the *Protestant* Interest in *Europe*, against the Blinded Politicians of this Age, and it shall, I hope, stand upon Record for me, that I did so, if the Providence of God for the Scourge of his Church, shall permit the *Austrian* Monarchy to be thus Strengthened, which I hope, and pray, may not happen, yet they must submit; but sure it must be a Curse and a Punishment upon those Protestants in this Nation, if they

are so blinded from Heaven, as to have a Hand in it.

I confess, I am not without Fears for them, for a Reason, which tho' I think necessary to hint, yet affects me with a sensible Grief at the Thoughts of it, *viz.* That the Protestant Interest in Europe has receiv'd some of the most fatal Strokes that it ever felt, from the very Protestants, their Brethren of this Island, and I doubt they will still be betray'd by them.

Unhappy Truth! and an unhappy Occasion that makes me speak it! The Extirpation of the Protestant Religion in the Great Kingdom of France, was owing Originally to the Protestants of this Wretched Nation, who lent their Ships to the French Tyrant, to break the Naval Strength of the Zealous Rochellers, who, till then, were never in Danger, but from that Blow were Besieg'd, and starv'd into a Surrender.

I might Instance in their being mock'd with the Promises of Relief from England, instead whereof, our Men went into the City, eat up the small Store of Provisions the poor Besieged Citizens had left, and then left them, that is, betray'd them: It is a sad Story, let them that question the Truth of it, read the Life of Lewis XIII.

Another Time when we abandon'd the Protestant Interest, was in King James II's Time, in the Case of the King of Bohemia; whom, if King James had supported, as he Solemnly Swore to Count Mansfield he would do, the Protestants of Germany had never been over-run by Ferdinand II. even to a very near View of their Extirpation from the Empire.

I might bring you in King Charles II. of Pious Memory, Assisting a Popish aspiring French King, with Armies, Ships, &c. against the Dutch, till he brought the States to the utmost Brink or Extremity, and within the Cast of a Die for Dissolution.

The Fourth Time is now before us, when we appear mighty willing to set our Hands to the Destruction of the Protestant Interest of Germany; God forbid it should come to pass; but if ever it does, Posterity will Curse

the Zealous Protestants of this Generation as the Causes of it.

My merry Antagonists have gotten a Tale by the Bad, which they Ring the Changes upon most pleasantly; The Emperor has no Ships, and therefore he cannot hurt us, over and over again; this is their Catch Word, *Ilis sub Montibus erant, & erant sub Montibus illis*; But when I ask them whether he wants Ships to Oppress the Protestant Princes in Germany, they are as mute as Fishes — They tell us the Emperor is a weak Prince; the Emperor's Agents tell them they are all Mistaken in him, and that he talks of Fighting the French all alone, without Spain or the Indies; all this they can swallow well enough — But not a Word of Answer to it, nor indeed can it be answer'd.

I am coming now to speak of another Case, in which, I doubt I shall give no better Content; and yet, in which I shall, I hope, ground my Discourse upon Reason, upon Justice, and the true Interest of Britain; and this relates to

A Treaty with France.

I may perhaps meet with many Objections against the Proposals, and against the Terms which some would make Peace upon; but I must confess, I cannot see one well-Grounded Reason to be given, why we should not Treat; and the Objections I have hitherto met with are so odd, so weak, and appear so mean, to say no worse, that I cannot but speak a Word or two to this Matter.

And first, in general, give me leave to distinguish, as *Right I think demands*, between Treating of Peace, and Making of Peace — He that will not agree with me to make this Distinction, I am not talking to him, nor will I take any notice of what he says in the Case, *qui bene distinguit, bene docet*; There is neither Teaching well, or Learning well, much less Arguing well, without making just Distinctions — To say I am for a Peace, because I am for a Treaty, is false Arguing; to say I am for a Good Peace, because I am for a Treaty, I am ready to grant; and because I am for a Tre-

by, therefore it appears I am for none but a Good Peace, and he that is not for a Good Peace; I own I am against him.

But I'll go farther by Way of Digression; if I were in a Plot to break off the Hopes of a Peace, I would be for a *Treaty*; in a *Treaty*, the Sincerity of the *French* may be try'd, their Insincerity expos'd, and their Terms being Rejected, with the Reasons for doing so; appearing, the Peace must be farther off than ever; therefore if the *French* are for Tricking and Sharping, &c. as we are told, in a *Treaty* it will appear; to say they are not Sincere till it has been try'd in a *Treaty*, is begging the Question, and it may be said, how do we prove it? But if it appears upon a *Treaty*, then there's no more Room for an Objection, nor can any body then say a Word for them.

A *Treaty* therefore, if the Enemy, or any body else desires it, is the Reasonablest Thing in the World; a Good Peace is the Beginning and End of the War — You may fail of it with a *Treaty*, as I formerly said; but you are sure never to have it without a *Treaty*; therefore if I were for a Peace, or against a Peace, I must needs be for a *Treaty*.

But I am met full butt, as the Boys say, with an Answer, from Article VIII. of the Grand Alliance, viz. *That no Treaty shall be enter'd into, without the common Advice and Consent of the Allies*; and the Emperor having declar'd, that he will not enter into a *Treaty*, or send Plenipotentiaries to any Congress, upon the Foot of these Proposals; That therefore we cannot, without Breach of Articles, enter into a *Treaty* at all.

This, I conceive, is the most can be said to the Case — It is not for me to determine how the Sense of these Words are to be taken, to wit, either Literally or Construktively: viz. Whether Literally, thus; That if there were Thirty of the Allies, and Nine and Twenty of them Concluded it proper to Treat, the Thirtieth *Dissenting*, the War must be carried on, and the flux of Christian Blood flow on, to

oblige, perhaps the Caprice, or Resolute Humour of that one Ally.

I explain myself by asking,

1. Whether the Words *Common Consent of the Confederates*, ought to be understood of every Individual, or of a Majority?
2. Whether the *Dissenting Allies* are to Dissent absolutely, or give Satisfying Reasons for their *Dissent*?

I shall not satisfy the general Curiosity so far, as to give my Affirmative in either of these Cases, but I cannot but think, that if any One Ally shall, against the Majority of the Allies, and without Satisfying Reasons, insist upon the Negative, and refuse to Treat, and all the rest must submit; then we are fairly bound Apprentices to one another for the War, and our Time will never be out, while any one Ally has a Mind to carry it on.

It seems a Question very likely now to be ask'd, if the Emperor refuses to Treat, can we Treat without him, or can we not? If we cannot — What is next? Are we bound Apprentice to the Emperor to carry on the War as long as he pleases? I'll put the Case plain; suppose the *French* do offer an *Equitable and Reasonable Satisfaction* to the Emperor — Even such as the rest of the Allies thought was a *Full, Equitable and Reasonable Satisfaction*, and were all willing to accept of it; but his Imperial Majesty perhaps refuses to hear of any Thing, will not close with, or accept of it, or stop so much as to Treat about it — I appeal to any Man, however Prejudic'd, What must we do? Must we fight on for ever, tho' every Reasonable Demand be Answer'd, purely because one Obstinate Ally thinks fit to stand out, without giving any Reason for it? — What Answer will you give to this, you that are against a Peace? Will you shew what Warrant for spilling Christian Blood you could have in such a Case? — If Reason be offer'd, there remains no more Reason for War; if Reason be not offer'd, you have nothing to do but declare it,

it, and let him be Hang'd in Chaias that Demands a Peace; if Satisfaction be given, you can make War in no-body's Name but the Devil's; if Satisfaction be not given, you can make Peace in no other Name either; wherefore you must bring it to a Tryal, and that is a TREATY.

ERRATA.

THE Reader is desir'd to amend with his Pen, the Errors following, in the last Review; the Author having not had Opportunity to Revise it.

PAGE 441. Line 1. for MAJORE r.

MAJORA; ibid l. 8. for *son Mesme r. sy Mesme*; p. 442. col. 2. l. 9. for *the Fool, r. the Fool*; lb. line last but 3. for *Library r. Libraries*; p. 443. col. 1. l. 16. for *Catin r. Corin*;

* * Note, that when the Lunar Lines above were first sent by the Author, they were only a Distich, or one Couplet of two Lines; but having added two others after the Press was set, the Word *Distich* was forgot, so the Reader is desir'd to leave it out in the Reading, or call it *Tetrastich*, which he pleases.

pag. 444. l. 1. for *Indulosen, r. Idulafin*; lb. l. 2. for *Tylos, r. Fylos*; ib. col. 1. l. 2. for *he r. the*.

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N. B. The Reader is desir'd to Correct with his Pen a Sentence in French spoken by King William, which was sent right to the Press, and Corrected in the Revise, but slip't over by the Workmen, which should be thus,

Et bien, donc le Roy de France est Ruiné, Et l'Europe aussi. pag. 5. l. 28.

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